21 NOV 1951

NANTYGLO & BLAINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1950

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1951

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Nantyglo & Blaina Urban District Council, 1950.

Chairman—Councillor W. H. HAMBLETON, J.P. (to 22/5/1950)
Councillor W. YEMM, J.P. (from 22/5/1950)

North Ward—

Councillor W. YEMM, J.P.
,, J. H. DURBAN
,, R. GORE
,, E. A. HUGHES
,, D. JAMES

Central Ward—

Councillor D. G. BARNES
,, T. REES
,, W. H. SILK
,, J. JONES
,, M. THOMPSON

South Ward—

Councillor A. J. ROBINS
,, F. AXFORD
,, W. H. HAMBLETON, J.P.
,, B. MORGAN
,, H. P. GRIFFITHS

Public Health Committee:

Chairman—Councillor E. A. HUGHES (to 22/5/1950)
Councillor W. SILK (from 22/5/1950)
and all Members of the Council.

Clerk of the Council—G. ROY JENKINS, LL.B.

Chief Financial Officer—E. J. HELT

Engineer and Surveyor—
W. W. OUTHWAITE, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.MUN.E.

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health—
J. WALTERS BOWEN, M.B., B.CH., B.SC., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—
F. D. COLLIER, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—J. P. MICHAEL

Rodent Officer—E. E. WILKINS

Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1950

of the Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for the year 1950 has been prepared to conform with Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and also in accordance with circular 2/50 (Wales d/d 25.130) of the Ministry of Health (Welsh Board of Health).

Prior to January, 1950, the Urban District of Nantyglo and Blaina was served by a part-time Medical Officer, but on January 1st, 1950, a full-time Medical Officer of Health was appointed to act as District Medical Officer to the combined Nantyglo and Blaina and Abertillery Urban Districts, and as Area Medical Officer to No. 5 Area under the Local Health Authority, which is the Monmouthshire County Council. This appointment also included the duties of School Medical Officer under the Divisional Executive for the same area.

The Medical Officer's time was apportioned as follows :

4/11ths to Abertillery Urban District.
2/11ths to Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District.
5/11ths to the Monmouthshire County Council.

In his capacity as District Medical Officer of Health he became responsible for the environmental hygiene of the combined areas, whilst as Area Medical Officer he became responsible for the decentralised Health and School Medical Services of the Local Health Authority, under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health, Monmouthshire.

Before commencing my Report, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Dr. F. M. Wallen-Gunn, who was part-time Medical Officer of Health for this district for twenty-two years prior to my appointment.

There can be no doubt that Dr. Wallen-Gunn did a tremendous amount of excellent work as Medical Officer ; this can be seen in view of the fact that during her twenty-two years service there were very few outbreaks of epidemic infectious disease in this district. This is a credit to her. I would say that the records which Dr. Wallen-Gunn left have been of the greatest value to me.

At the time of writing I understand that Dr. Wallen-Gunn is retiring from her position as a Medical Practitioner. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing her a very long and happy retirement.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District	3,862 acres
Estimate of Population, 1921	16,453
,, ,, 1931	13,190
,, ,, 1941	12,440
,, ,, 1945	11,410
,, ,, 1947	11,460
,, ,, 1948	11,410
,, ,, 1949	11,490
,, ,, 1950	11,500
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,275
Rateable Value of the District	£33,015
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£116

VITAL STATISTICS.

Number of Births		208
Legitimate Births ...	Boys 109	Girls 90
Illegitimate Births .	Boys 2	Girls 7
Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population		18·08
,, ,, ,, (Mon. County)		17·4
,, ,, ,, (England and Wales)		15·8
Number of Still Births ...	Boys 3	Girls 6
Still Births per 1,000 of population ...		0·77
,, ,, ,, (Mon. County)		0·58
,, ,, ,, (England and Wales)		0·37
Number of Deaths—Males 95 Females 71...		166
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population ...		14·43
,, ,, ,, (Mon. County)		12·3
,, ,, ,, (England and Wales)		11·6

INQUESTS.

There were 7 inquests during the year.

The circumstances of the deaths are analysed and are as follows :—

		Male	*Female*	*Total*
1	Accidents on the road ...	2	1	3
2	Accidents in the colliery ...	1	—	1
3	Suicide	1	—	1
4	Accident whilst playing games	1	—	1
5	Arising from industrial disease	1	—	1

Number of Births in the District, showing Ward Distribution and Month of Occurrence.

Month	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Quarterly Births*	*Wards*		
					North	*Cen.*	*South*
January	13	5	18		2	5	3
February	9	11	21		9	4	2
March	13	15	28	67	5	7	2
April	12	8	20		5	6	3
May	9	7	16		7	3	1
June	9	8	17	53	2	2	4
July	9	9	18		8	3	2
August..	12	9	21		5	5	3
September	16	8	24	63	4	5	4
October	10	9	19		4	4	6
November	8	8	16		9	3	—
December	15	12	27	62	7	3	6
Total			245				

Deaths from All Causes during the year 1950.

DISEASE	Under 1 yr.	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2	2	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	1	2	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	13	14	9	23
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inter-Cranial and Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	9	5	8	13
Heart Disease	1	...		...	...	1	...	...	...	1	15	51	36	33	69
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	2	1	1	2
Bronchitis	5		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	9	5	14
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	4	1	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	1	1	2
Duodenal Ulcer	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	7	6	1	7
Congenital Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	3	...		...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	5	...	5
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...		2	6	8	8	8	16
Total	10	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	8	45	99	95	71	166

TABLE

SHOWING MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS (ALL FORMS) FOR THE YEAR 1950, WITH WARD DISTRIBUTION.

Month of Year.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		*Total*	Wards		
	Males	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*		N.	C.	S.
January	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
February	2	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
March	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	1	—	1	—	2	2	—	—
July	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
August	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September ..	3	—	—	—	3	2	—	1
October	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November ..	1	2	—	—	3	3	—	—
December ..	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	—
TOTAL	9	4	2	1	16	10	5	1

Table

Showing the Admissions and Discharges to Institutions for the Treatment of Tuberculosis during 1950.

Institutions	*Admissions*		*Discharges*	
	Males	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*
North Wales Sanatorium...	...	1	...	...
Cefn Mably Hospital ..	1	...	1	...
Glan Ely Hospital ...	2	...	3	1
South Wales Sanatorium	1	...	1	...
Sully Hospital ...	2	...	2	...
Total ...	6	1	7	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
Number of Deaths (under 1 year)	10	12	12	16	9	12	16	9	11	19
Number of Births	208	205	233	240	225	203	217	219	223	204
Mortality Rate	48·07	58·5	50·1	66·6	40·0	59·1	73·7	41·1	49·3	93·1

Particulars of Deaths of Children under 1 year.

Under 1 week	1	1—3 months	4	Total under 1 year ...	10
1—2 weeks	2	3—6 months	1		
2—3 weeks	...	6—9 months	1		
3—4 weeks ...	...	9—12 months... ...	1		
	3		7		

Total Number of Births .. 208 Total Number of Deaths ... 10

Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births ... 48·07

1950. Analysis of Total Cases of Infectious Diseases according to Age Groups.															Deaths from Infectious Cases according to Age Groups.													
DISEASE	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Total	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Total	Number admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	3	2	8	4	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	1	5	4	7	7	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	1	...	3	1	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	5	...
Erysipelas		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	1	5	6	12	9	26	5	...	1	...	4	2	71	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	5	2
TUBERCULOSIS.																												
Pulmonary	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	5	4	1	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	4	5
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	2
Total	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	6	4	3	...	16	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	.	1	3	1	1	7	7

Analysis of Infectious Diseases according to Wards and Districts.

DISEASE	WARDS			TOTAL	DISTRICTS		TOTAL
	North	Central	South		Nantyglo	Blaina	
Scarlet Fever	8	4	7	19	9	10	19
Measles	8	9	21	38	8	30	38
Whooping Cough	...	...	3	3	...	3	3
Pneumonia	9	...	...	9	9	...	9
Erysipelas	...	1	1	2	...	2	2
Totals	25	14	32	71	26	45	71
Tuberculosis :							
Pulmonary	8	4	1	13	8	5	13
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	...	3	2	1	3
Totals	10	5	1	16	10	6	16

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspectors, and all departments of the Council, for their willing co-operation during the year.

Yours obediently,

J. WALTERS BOWEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1950.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of this district is supplied by the Ebbw Vale Urban District Council. The surface reservoir is situated at Llangynidr Mountain.

The water is chlorinated and is filtered by slow sand filters. During the first part of the year the supply of water to some parts of the district was very unsatisfactory, but during the last few months the pressure did slightly improve. Each day the water has to be turned off in the lower part of the area to allow a supply to the upper part of the district.

Due to the turning off, and the softness of the water, service pipes become corroded in a much lesser time than if conditions were normal.

The Council have taken all possible steps to improve the matter, and have a scheme prepared by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners. Work will be commenced as soon as the necessary materials are available.

(1) Number of houses supplied from public mains (approximate) 3,260

(2) Approximate population supplied from public mains 11,450

The following samples were taken during the year from the mains supply :—

No. taken for Bacteriological Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
19	18	1

No. taken for Chemical Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1	1	—

Swimming Bath—At present there are no publicly or privately owned swimming baths in the area.

During the summer months the ponds in the district are still used, in spite of the fact that they are dangerous and are quite unfit to be used as swimming pools.

Drainage—Drainage-Sewerage is on the water carriage system. The subsidiary sewers are connected up with the Western Valley (Mon.) Main Trunk Sewer, which discharges into the sea at low water west of the mouth of the river Usk.

The sewers are in quite good condition, but there are a few lengths which should be relaid, due to insufficient gradient, such as portions of the sewer at Winchestown, Nantyglo and Surgery Road, Blaina.

Public Cleansing—Public cleansing and refuse collection is controlled by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

Refuse is deposited at the Boot Tip site, Nantyglo, and at the lower end of the Duffryn Park, Blaina. Controlled tipping is exercised at both sites.

Although there is a collection of refuse three times a week, householders in the area, despite warning, still deposit their refuse on open spaces near their homes. This, in my opinion, will not be remedied until there is more co-operation between all concerned, and each householder has a suitable covered dustbin for the storage of domestic refuse prior to collection.

HOUSING.

I—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Act, 1936) 175

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 288

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling houses included under (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-1932 ... 8

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 17

(3) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 8

(4) Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 43

II.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... 20

III.—Action under the Statutory Powers during the year :

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11, 12 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... nil

(2) Number of Closing Orders served ... ... nil

Number of Demolition Orders served 8

(3) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :

(*a*) By Owners ... ... nil

(*b*) By Local Authority ... ... nil

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 12

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice : 12

(*a*) By Owners 12

(*b*) By the Authority in default of Owner ... nil

Housing still remains a very major problem in this district. During the last few years many of the occupiers of dwelling

houses in the area have become owner occupiers, and in many cases have carried out essential repairs, in order that they may become reasonably habitable. It will be realised that many of these houses fall short of the present standards, but unless extensive structural alterations are carried out it is impossible to reach present-day housing standards.

Unfortunately we still have houses or blocks of houses such as Humphrey Hughes', parts of Solomon's Tump, and back-to-back houses which are in a deplorable and unsatisfactory state of repair. The tenants in the majority of these cases do not pay any rent, only rates, and it is difficult to get even the minimum of essential repairs carried out.

Since the war, tenants for Council properties have in the main been taken from places where there are more than one family living in one house

Personally I feel that the time has arrived when consideration should be given to the demolition of unfit houses in the area.

Council Houses—Repairs to these properties are carried out by the Surveyor's Department. During the year a major repair scheme was commenced.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No action has been found necessary during the year under provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to the ventilation and temperature of the shops.

A part-time Shops Inspector officiates in the area.

MARINE STORES.

There are four registered Marine Stores in the district. These are inspected periodically. No rag flock is made or sold in the area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of Factories on Register December, 1950 ...	18
Number of Inspections	46
Written Notices—	
(1) Want of cleanliness	nil
(2) Insufficient sanitary conveniences	2

RODENT CONTROL.

(Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949).

There is a full-time Rodent Officer employed in the Sanitary Inspector's department. The tables on following pages show the work on rodent control carried out during the year.

1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE.

Type of Property	(i) Total	(ii) Number of Properties in Local Authority's Area in which infestation was: Notified by Occupier	(iii) Number of Properties in Local Authority's Area in which infestation was: Other-wise discovered	(iv) Number of Properties in Local Authority's Area in which infestation was: Recorded total of (ii) & (iii)	(v) Analysis of Column (iv): Number infested by: Rats: Major	(vi) Analysis of Column (iv): Number infested by: Rats: Minor	(vii) Analysis of Column (iv): Number infested by: Mice only
Local Authority's Property...	12	...	3	3	...	3	...
Dwelling House ...	3186	22	55	77	...	21	56
Business Premises ...	134	12	3	15	1	4	10
Agricultural Property ...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	3348	34	61	95	1	28	66

2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Type of Property	No. of Properties Inspected	No. of Inspections made	Number of Notices served under Section 4		Number of Treatments carried out				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect. 6 (1) or by informal arrangement		
					By arrangement with Occupier		Under Section 5 (1)			Surface	Associated Sewers
			Treatments	Works	Rats	Mice Only	Rats	Mice Only	No. of Blocks	No. of separate occupancies	No. of Manholes treated
Local Authority's Property...	12	52	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dwelling House ..	656	1047	...	...	21	56	...	...	3	144	21
Business Premises ...	81	152	...	...	5	10	...	...	...	...	...
Agricultural Property ..	9	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL... ...	758	1271	...	...	29	66	...	...	3	144	21

INSPECTION OF MFAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat Inspection.—An additional Sanitary Inspector is employed by the Council on full-time Meat Inspection at the Brynmawr abbatoir. Slaughtering at this abbatoir is carried out for the urban areas of Brynmawr, Blaenavon, Nantyglo and Blaina, Abertillery and Abercarn.

The following is the number of animals slaughtered and inspected, and the amount of meat and offal condemned :—

1950.

	Cattle excluding Cows	*Cows only*	*Calves*	*Sheep*	*Pigs*
Number slaughtered ...	2351	1179	476	19759	473
Number inspected	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	1	19	—	18	1
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned ...	296	792	—	2178	18
Percentage of number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	12·6	68·8	—	9·8	4
Tuberculosis Only :					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	7	30	1	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned for Tuberculosis ...	142	305	—	—	2
Percentage of number affected by Tuberculosis ...	6·3	28·4	0·2	—	0·6

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

At present there are five persons in the district holding Slaughtering Licences under the above Act.

Other foods condemned included the following—

98 tins Tomatoes
15 tins Beetroot
4 stones Hake
8 bottles Piccalilli
25 tins Meat
4 boxes Shredded Wheat
14 tins Peas
27 tins Milk
1 tin Cocoa
4 lbs. Cheese
8 tins Salmon
246 packets Cake Mixture
13 tins Danish Pork Brawn
1 tin Tomato Soup
1 tin Orange Juice
15 tins Beans
7 tins Plums
1 tin Apple Puree
3 bottles Blackberries
1 tin Sardines
1 tin Spaghetti
3 tins Rabbit
3 tins Pilchards
1 tin Tomato Juice
3 tins Grapes
1 tin Raspberries
8 lbs. Dates
½ lb. Suet
2¼ lbs. Brawn
42 lbs. Sausages
118 Savoury Ducks

MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

(*a*) Number of persons registered as milk distributors ... 13

(*b*) Number of dealers' licences issued authorising the use of the special designation, " Pasteurised " ... 3

(*c*) Number of dealers' licences issued authorising the use of the special designation, " Pasteurised " (Tuberculin Tested) 9

(*d*) Number of dealers in area distributing ungraded milk 1

The greatest portion of the milk is imported into the district by means of road and rail transport. Most of the milk is now distributed in bottles.

The following Milk Samples were taken during the year :

	Pasteurised (Tuberculin Tested)	Ungraded	Total
No. of Samples taken... ...	43	5	48
Satisfactory	40	4	44
Unsatisfactory	3	1	4

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947

There are in this area nineteen premises registered for the sale or manufacture of Ice Cream.

They are as follows :

1—Manufacture and sale :

Heat Treatment ... 1

Complete Cold Mix ... 1

2—Premises registered for the Sale of Ice Cream ... 17

Total ... 19

With the exception of the two local manufacturers, all Ice Cream is imported into the district, and is pre-packed.

During the year 11 samples were taken; the results were as follows:

Number of Samples taken	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
11	7	4	0	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

Periodic visits are paid to Fried Fish Shops, Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops, Food Preparing premises and Provision Stores.

During the year several of the Provision Stores were provided with hot water installations for the use of the staff.

LICENCED HOTELS AND INNS.

During the year particular attention was given to the above premises. Running hot water supply to the bars and provision of suitable washing-up sinks were installed in a number of these premises. Sanitary conveniences for males and females were also provided.

In concluding this report, I would like to thank all members of the staff for their valuable assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. COLLIER, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

BRITISH MUSEUM 66 OCT